THE BIBLE SPEAKS

By DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

SCRIPTURE: Daniel 9; Revelation 1, 4-6, 11, 12-22. DAILY DEVOTIONAL READING: Revelation 7:9-17.

God's V-Day

Lesson for December 26, 1948

Dr. Foreman

EVERYBODY loves a fight, they say. But the underdog does not love it, and nobody loves one that goes on and on and seems to have no end. The longest war in history is the war that mankind wages against everything that is out to destroy him. It is the war between man at his best and man at his worst, between the angel and the devil in man himself. We seem to be the underdogs—and how tired we grow of it!

* * *

God's Fight

THE Bible shows us that this fight is not one in which we human begins are left to defend ourselves alone. We have an enemy, Satan; and we have an ally, God. Whenever a man lines up against anything that is wrong, hateful, deceitful, destructive, and on the side of what is creative, just, brotherly and true, he finds that this is not a private fight, it is not even the struggle of mankind alone. It is a cosmic conflict.

God's universe is not a neat garden in which only flowers grow; he has to work cutting down the weeds. His universe is not a realm at peace, with no need even for police; treason is abroad, rebellion breaks out here and there.

The Greeks used to think that the gods never went to any trouble, they ruled without effort. But the Christian Bible tells of a God who does have troubles, who meets opposition and fights against it.

* * *

Bright Books for Dark Times

TWO books in our Bible bring this out in a startling way: Daniel and Revelation. We have been thinking through three months now about various kinds of literature in the Bible. The kind represented by these two books is called "Apocalyptic." Scholars have discovered a number of similar books, but these two are incomparably the greatest and were the only two to be admitted to the Bible. One feature of all apocalyptic literature is that it always appears in dark times, and its first readers are people down at the bottom of the heap, people beyond all human hope.

Daniel, long before the time of Christ, and Revelation, two generations later than Christ, came as lights in a very dark world. The first of these books circulated when the Jews were hard pressed by Syrian persecutors, and when the other came out, the Christians were about to be crushed out of existence by cruel Roman emperors.

Observing what went on in those days, you might have thought the Jews, or the Christians as the case might be, had no prospects of surviving. But these books brought a brighter message: Have courage! God will not lose!

* * *

A Code in Pictures

DANIEL and Revelation are both hard to understand, and for the same reason. Their messages are framed not always in plain language but in symbols. Hidden meanings abound.

This had to be so; if one of these books fell (as sometimes they did) into the hands of the persecuting agents of the Syrian or Roman governments, it would not get the owner into trouble, for the agent would hardly be able to interpret the strange language.

All sorts of weird creatures and events move through these mysterious pages, and they often probably refer to persons or events known to the writers and the first readers: beasts with iron teeth and horns with eyes; a flaming throne set on a river of fire; golden vials filled with the wrath of God; a red dragon sweeping the stars down with its tail.

* * *

God's Victory

WE NEED not be distressed now at not being able to unlock all the code in which these extraordinary books are written. We can read them for their sheer beauty and force of imagination, for one thing, and we cannot miss their main truth. The bright picture of the New Jerusalem in Rev. 21, 22 is one of the loveliest and most comforting passages in the entire Bible.

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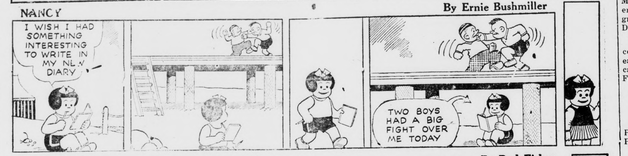
LITTLE REGGIE — By Margarita

NANCY — By Ernie Bushmiller



MUTT AND JEFF — By Bud Fisher

YEH, I TRAINED HIM, MYSELF, SCHULTZE! HE'LL DO ANYTHING I TELL HIM! LIE DOWN, RITZ!
I SAID, LIE DOWN, RITZ! LIE DOWN!
WELL, THEN— STAND UP! STAND UP!
HERE! EAT THIS CHOP, RITZ!
THERE YA ARE SCHULTZE! IT'S TRAINING THAT DOES IT!

SANTA CLAUS is one of the most precious wonders of childhood. American mothers overwhelmingly agree that he should be portrayed as the spirit of generosity, kindliness, and gift-giving.

Although the modern conception of Santa Claus is American, the Spirit of Santa Claus is neither modern nor American. The real Saint Nicholas lived in Asia Minor and ever since his death in 343 stories concerning him have been repeated around the firesides of Europe.

The children of Lapland and northern climates naturally picture Santa dressed in fur and dashing through the snow in a reindeer-drawn sleigh. But in central Europe, St. Nicholas first appeared on his liturgical feast day, December 6, and he was a thin, austere churchman who rode a mule and carried gifts for good children and a bundle of birch rods with which to switch the naughty.

Under Dutch influence St. Nicholas lost his solemnity. The Dutch colonists who brought him to America were very practical people and they decided against two gift-giving days in the same month. Thus, Sinter Klaas started coming around only at Christmas time.

Santa Gets a Sleigh.

Eventually, ancient legends were woven into American Christmas traditions. Washington Irving sent St. Nicholas flying through Christmas skies in a reindeer-drawn sleigh in 1809; Dr. Clement Moore's poem "The Night Before Christmas," written in 1822, gave Santa "a little round belly that shook when he laughed, like a bowl full of jelly;" and a series of drawing in 1866 by Thomas Nast added much to the traditional pictures and appearance of the Santa we see today.

In every youngster's life there comes the time when he begins to suspect that the various bewhiskered gentlemen, so numerous during this season, are not exactly the real Santa Claus. Wise parents advance the "helper" theory as soon as they are asked questions and teach their children to make the Christmas dreams of less fortunate tots and their families come true.

Thus, the real Santa Claus isn't just myth or legend. He is the Spirit of Christmas who lives in the sparkling eyes of children and in the hearts of all grown-ups who strive for peace and good will among men.

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—The Times-Virginian.

Secret Gifts Left By St. Nicholas

The story of how St. Nicholas became associated with secret gift-giving, and even today comes covertly at night to leave his presents, is one of the most important in the history of his life.

Once upon a time there was a man with three daughters, all of them wishing to marry, but with no dowry forthcoming. Sorry, indeed, was their plight. Their father had about decided to sell them as slaves, but the good St. Nicholas heard of it, and filling a purse with gold, went quietly by night to their home. Seeing a window open, he threw in the bag of gold and then stole away in the night. This money enabled the eldest daughter to marry. A second and a third time St. Nicholas made the trip and finally all three daughters were married.

After the Saint's third trip, the girls' father, who had been watching to see who brought the gifts, ran after St. Nicholas and thanked him for his kindness. St. Nicholas made him promise not to divulge his gift-giving and after that he always deposited his presents so secretly that no one ever saw him. Yet people knew, somehow, that it was he who brought gifts during the night, and so wherever they found a package mysteriously delivered they instantly exclaimed, "St. Nicholas has brought it!"

German Housewives Store Potatoes in Their Beds

LINCOLN, NEB. — American housewives discontented in this era of high prices should consider the plight of German women, according to Dr. Otto Hoiberg, University of Nebraska sociologist.

Hoiberg returned recently from three years' service in Berlin with the United States military government.

The problem of protecting vegetables from freezing is acute, he said, and some German housewives store potatoes in their beds.

A change in the family menu frequently consists of switching the black bread serving from before to after the potato course, he said.

Coffee grounds are brewed three and four times and finally pressed into service as a cake ingredient, Hoiberg said.

The sociologist urged American women's groups to contact German women's clubs, through the military government's women's division at Nuernberg, and aid the latter in their self-help programs.

Our Christmas Date Started By Romans

The first celebration of the birth of Christ on December 25 took place in the fourth century. Before that date the commemoration of Christ's Nativity and Baptism was held on January 6.

The first mention of Christmas is found in a Roman document known as the "Philocalian Calendar" in the year 354, and the first time the festival was celebrated in Britain was in 598, when St. Augustine baptized 10,000 converts.

In the year 567 the Council of Tours declared a twelve-day festival from Christmas to Epiphany, and in 991-1016 the laws ordained that all strife should cease at Christmas. Christmas was established in 813 in Germany and in Norway in the year 950.

Sniff Expert Called to Help Police Solve Perfume Puzzle

ATLANTA.—Samples of a perfume cache believed to be worth $30,000 to $50,000 were on the way to New York for evaluation by a "professional sniffer."

Detective Sgt. Bill Lyle said the police hope an expert can determine the actual value of the perfume and perhaps tell where it was manufactured.

The perfume—300 4½-ounce bottles — was found in an Atlanta hotel room. Lyle said local perfume dealers believe the unlabeled bottles contain an expensive perfume made in France. They estimated its value at from $17.50 to $22 an ounce, but referred police to a New York expert.

The detective said the perfume was found in a room rented to a man who paid his hotel bill but left town owing other bills totaling $80.

Lyle theorized that the perfume was smuggled into this country since no tax stamps were on the bottles.

Joe Cannon's 'Bargain' Coat Brings Very Little Profit

WASHINGTON, D. C.—Uncle Joe Cannon, former speaker of the house, was a notoriously shabby dresser.

Thinking that he should dress up to his position, his sister tried to persuade him to buy a new overcoat, so, finally, one day on his way to the capitol, he stopped in a clothing store, priced garments and found overcoats for $35 each. Indignantly he marched out, announcing he could not be that extravagant.

When the late Senator Watson, who was present, retorted this to Cannon's sister that evening, she secretly handed him $15 with the request that he visit the store and slip it surreptitiously to the overcoat man, thereby automatically reducing the price to $20. She then persuaded Uncle Joe to stop again and price the garment, which he did. Discovering the cost was now $20 instead of $35, he bought one and wore it to his office on the hill. One of his confreres, impressed, saw it and remarked:

"You have a new overcoat, Uncle Joe. I would like to try it on."

Finding it fitted, he turned to his friend and said:

"I'll give you $25 for it, spot cash."

Speaker Cannon, thinking that he was making a good bargain and a quick profit, accepted, put on his old coat and went home, reporting the developments to his sister, much to her dismay.

Leading Authority Claims Toothaches Are Old-Fashioned

SEATTLE, WASH. — Toothaches are old-fashioned.

That is the opinion of Dr. John C. Brauer of the University of Washington school of dentistry, a leading authority on children's dentistry.

Dr. Brauer said older people cannot always be spared from aching molars because of past habits, but few children would experience dental pain during their lives if they practiced preventive measures now known to dental science.

He lists five major points in the protection of children's teeth:

Regular and careful cleansing and brushing of teeth.

Topical application of sodium fluoride.

Adequate nutritional diet, including proper amounts of milk, eggs, meat, fruits and cereals.

A minimum of concentrated sweets such as candy, gum, pop, rich pastries, jams and jellies.

A child should visit the dentist before he is three years old.

Scientists Seek Ways To Sun-Proof Clothing

WASHINGTON—Your dress, tent or shirt may be sunproof in the future because of experiments being conducted atop Mount Montezuma in Chile.

Smithsonian Institution scientists at 9,500-foot peak are making precise measurements of the effect on various fabrics of different elements in sunshine.

They are working on the theory that disintegration of cloth is due as much to specific kinds of light as to total sunlight. But moisture in the atmosphere is also a culprit and it is difficult to separate its effect on fibers from that of the damaging heat rays. Hence the choice of Chile's Pacific coast, one of the driest spots in the western

Uncle Sam Says

Your Uncle Sam wants to tell you about a Christmas gift you shouldn't be without. That's the gift of security, of confidence in your financial future, of that peace of mind that only comes when money's not a problem, but a blessing. You can have that gift because your Government is offering the finest savings plan that ever came within your reach. If you are on a payroll, join the Payroll Savings Plan that puts in your hand a U. S. Savings Bond at regular intervals. If not on a payroll, set up a savings bond each month through the Bond-a-Month Plan at your bank. When making up presents for the family, give a thought to their future!

U.S. Treasury Department

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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

IN THE HEART OF THE DARK TOBACCO BELT

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

ESTABLISHED 1892

CALVIN H. ROBINSON ..... EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Member Virginia Press Association

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Appomattox, Va., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Address all correspondence to The Times-Virginian, Appomattox, Va. Subscription Rate: $1.50 a year; 75c six months; less than six months 5c per copy. Payable in advance. Advertising rates on request.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION 1948 Active Member

PRESS

Church News

EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH FIELD

Cecil G. Carter, Pastor

EVERGREEN BAPTIST CHURCH TO PRESENT CHRISTMAS PPROGRAM

FRIDAY NIGHT, 8 P. M.

The Pageant, "Let Us Adore Him" by Amanda Dalleffe and Miriam Lois Fisher, Lorenz Publishers, will be presented by the Evergreen Baptist Church on Friday, December 24, at 8 P. M.

The Pageant opens with a processional by the Junior Choir, each member bearing a lighted candle, singing, "O Come All Ye Faithful."

Then ensue the following scenes:

I. Temple Scene

II. Mary and Joseph

III. Worship at the Manger

Part 1. The Shepherds

Part 2. The Wise Men.

IV. Come, All Ye Faithful.

Many musical numbers will be included, both solos, and the Junior and Senior Choirs.

The Pageant Committee is composed of: Miss Rosa Mae Woodridge, Mrs. Edwin Carter and Mrs. C. G. Carter.

(Note: Central Church Officers W. M. U., and Training Union, will be published next week.

APPOMATTOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dr. W. Twyman Williams, Pastor

Morning Worship, 11 A.M.

Sunday School, 9:45 A. M.

Special music by the Teen Agers.

MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

Appomattox, Virginia

R. Carl Maxwell, Minister

9:45 A. M. Sunday School.

11:00 A. M. Morning Worship. Sermon topic: "If Jesus Had Not Come." (Student Recognition Service).

6:45 P. M. Youth Fellowship. Leader, Miss Rebecca Babcock.

7:30 P. M. Evening Worship. Sermon topic: "The Light of the World"

(The sermon Sunday night will be illustrated by a number of lighted candles).

A cordial welcome to all.

LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH

J. Marshall Walker, Pastor

Sunday School, 9:30 A. M.
C. S. Jenkins Supt.

Morning Worship, 11 A. M.

B. T. U. at 6:30 P. M.
Laura McFadden, director.

Evening Worship, 7:30.

Phone 30 with Personals.

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RUBBER STAMPS: Send your order for a rubber stamp to: The Times-Virginian.

State winter wheat acreage is estimated as same as 1947.

Tuck gives welefare post to Copeland.

Lions Club will have its annual Christmas celebration here Friday.

Clubbing of armed forces will be standardized.

MONROE LODGE

Monroe Lodge No. 301, A. F. & A. M., meets the second Monday of every month in their hall at Appomattox, at 8:00 P. M. Visiting brothers welcome.

Franklin Marshall, W. M.

Renew your subscription.

FOR SALE: 1946 Ford Two-Door Deluxe, in good condition. For sale at reasonable price. Phone: Appomattox 9902. (1tc)

FOR SALE: Practically new Oil Circulator, heats several rooms. In good shape. May be seen at Pulliam Motor Sales, Appomattox, Va. (1tc)

ENJOY EVERBLOOMING ROSES NEXT SUMMER by planting our Special Collection No. 72-S consisting of one each Pink Briarcliff, Mc-Cred's Scarlet, White Viktoria, Pink Radiance, Red Radiance, Talisman—a total of 6 Hardy Two-year Everblooming Roses for $5.25; 2 each, a total of 12, $10.00, express collect. Write for Free Copy 48-Page Planting Guide in full color. Salespeople wanted.

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Try a Classified ad.

FOR RENT: A 3-room Apartment for rent at Evergreen, Va. Write to W. Philip Spencer, Danville Technical Institute, Danville, Va. (12-23-2tp)

FOR SALE: One baby play pen, slightly used. Water proof pad. In good condition. (1tc)

Mrs. E. D. Tegethoff

FOR SALE: Kelvinator, First $50.00.

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FOR RENT: First floor apartment. Lights, heat and water furnished. See Mrs. R. M. Mann

FOR SALE: 1 6-ft. Westinghouse Electric Refrigerator. In excellent condition. Also 1 chifferobe, practically new. For information, call at Times-Virginian Office. (12-23-1tc)

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(10-28-tfc)

For Sale: History of Appomattox County & World Wars I & II, at T. Hunter Dickerson's Store. Price $5.00 If additional information desired write: American Legion Post 104, Appomattox, Va. Send check or money order when ordering.

FOR RENT: Four room house, five rooms if desired; all city conveniences, bath, hot and cold water, electric pump, garage, chicken house, hog lot, large garden, large glass enclosed back porch; three miles from Vera on hard surface road. —W. N. Kinsey. Care: Times-Virginian, Appomattox (12-16-2tp)

FOR RENT: A six room house near Spout Spring. Electricity, well in yard and house in very good condition. For information see or write: Willie Harvey, Route No. 1, Box 4A. (12-16-2tp)

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JITTER — By Arthur Pointer

THAT PET FROG WILL LIVE LONGER IF YOU KEEP HIM IN A JAR OF WATER.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I LOVE IT'S THE TANG OF ICE COLD LEMONADE WITH A PICNIC SUPPER

MUTT AND JEFF — By Bud Fisher

MUTT, I'M SELLIN TICKETS FOR A PLAY! YOU WANNA BUY SOME?
IS IT A GOOD SHOW?
SURE! THE ACTORS TAKE THEIR BOWS BEFORE THE SHOW EVEN BEGINS!
BEFORE WHY?
THEY WANT TO BE SURE THERE'S SOMEBODY THERE BEFORE THE SHOW ENDS!
YEH, I SAW THE SHOW! I SAW THE FIRST ACT BUT I DIDN'T SEE THE SECOND ACT!
WHY NOT?
IT SAID ON THE PROGRAM—"SECOND ACT ONE YEAR LATER"—HECK, I COULDN'T WAIT THAT LONG!

NANCY — By Ernie Bushmiller

LITTLE REGGIE — By Margarita

MUTT AND JEFF — By Bud Fisher

YOU WENT TO COLLEGE?
SURE, I WENT TO COLLEGE!
WHAT CHA GO IN FOR?
BECAUSE IT WAS RAINING OUTSIDE!
IF YOU WENT TO COLLEGE WHAT DID YOU STUDY?
OH, FOOTBALL, ALGEBRA, HISTORY AND GOZINTA! I LIKED GOZINTA!
GOZINTA? WHAT'S GOZINTA?
YOU KNOW— TWO GOZINTA SIX THREE TIMES. FOUR GOZINTA EIGHT TWICE!

NANCY — By Ernie Bushmiller

NO--YOU GO PEE WITH ME
OH, PLEASE TAKE HER
NOW DON'T BE A PEST TODAY--JUST TRY TO HELP ME
QUIET, NANCY-- I HAVE A BITE
FEEL BETTER?
SCRATCH SCRATCH

LITTLE REGGIE — By Margarita